



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 03/12/2012

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 12, 2012
 7:15 p.m.

Present: Ms. Rowe, Chair, Mr. Greeley, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Ms. LaCourt and Mr. Dunn
 Also present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

FOR APPROVAL

1. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

a. APPOINTMENTS

New Election Workers

Jane Byrne, 28 Upland Road, U, Pct. 19

Marilynn Dodd, 4 Browning Road, R, Pct. 18

Paula Fiore, 12 Puritan Road, D, Pct. 12

Janet Patterson, 37 Drake Road, D, Pct. 21

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

2. Introduction: Arlington Public Art

John Budzyna, Executive Director, Arlington Center for the Arts

Jane Howard, Co-Chair, Vision 2020 Standing Committee

Jane Howard, John Budzyna and Don Benjamin, Planner, Co-Chair APA, appeared before the Board stating that Arlington Public Art is a collaboration of the Arlington Center for the Arts and Vision 2020. In addition to these well-established organizations, its membership includes representatives of the K-12 visual arts program of Arlington Public Schools, the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development (A-TED), the Arlington Cultural Council, Sustainable Arlington, local business owners, the Town's Planning and Community Development Department and resident art-professional. The mission of Arlington Public Art is to engage the community and enrich public spaces through original public art that celebrates and adds to Arlington's unique historic, cultural, natural, and human resources. Our focus is to enable, commission, and purchase temporary and permanent works of art that our community considers to be life-enhancing in the present as well as a legacy for future generations. APA plans to reflect, enhance, and expand the Town's heritage, diversity, and character through an inclusive and broad vision of public art that is integrated into the architecture, infrastructure, and landscape. APA works cooperatively with public and private organizations and individuals to accomplish this civic mission.

As the Mass. Avenue Corridor Project proceeds through its design phase, APA wants to request and encourage the Selectmen's support in securing areas along Mass. Avenue that would feature public art. They feel there are many sites where Public Art would be appropriate; but three locations stand out as their top recommendations.

1. Lake Street and Mass. Avenue (in front of Olivio's)
2. Grafton Street and Mass. Avenue (in proposed cut out area)
3. Mass. Avenue and Route 16 (near the Homewood Suites Hotel)

As the Mass. Avenue Corridor Project proceeds through its design phase, the APA will request and encourage the

Selectmen's support in securing areas along Mass. Avenue that would feature public art.

Mr. Greeley thanked the Committee for their input and agreed it is a great idea. Once Mass. Avenue project is completed, the Board voted to see the plans for the structural footings and they also voted to make the final decision. Mr. Dunn stated once we have the 75% plans to move forward, please remind the Board of what art projects are being installed.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. Salary Study of Surrounding Towns

Clarissa Rowe, Chair/Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Town Manager Chapdelaine stated that he would be doing a survey with approximately 15 to 20 towns regarding the salaries of all public employees, union and non-unions, including teachers. Getting this information will be helpful when he is negotiating with town employees and labor unions. Ms. Rowe feels this survey will address rumors that Arlington employees are underpaid. Mr. Chapdelaine stated he may have outside consultants to assist us with Town staffing and also stated the salaries will not be rectified overnight, but this study can educate us as to where we are going.

Linda Hansen, School Union Representative, stated she is willing to serve on the committee and contribute as much as she could, but could not devote fulltime work to this survey.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager to inform the Board at their meeting on April 9th as to what the process will be.

Mr. Greeley moved receipt of report and asked that this be referred to the Town Manager.

SO VOTED (5-0)

APPOINTMENTS

4. Appointment: Arlington Cultural Council

Wendy Glaas

(term to expire 03/2015)

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Except in unusual circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation.

Barbara Boltz, 54 Medford Street, appeared before the Board regarding the Occupy Movement that is coming to Arlington on Sunday, March 18th from 2 to 4 p.m. in front of Arlington Town Hall for the launching of Occupy Arlington. The group will meet on the steps of Town Hall at 2 p.m. and form a procession to the park in front of Jefferson Cutter House where they will hold a General Assembly. In case of inclement weather, they will meet at the Arlington Senior Center.

Sean Harrington, Woodside Lane, wanted to voice his opinion regarding Article 73 - Resolution/US Supreme Court Decision In Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.

Ms. Rowe informed Mr. Harrington that a Warrant Article Hearing is scheduled for April 9th and at that time he can discuss the merits of the Article.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

6. Presentation of Chosen Option: Arlington Center Safe Travel Project

Michael Rademacher, Public Works Director

Laura Wiener, Senior Planner

In June 2010, the Board first discussed bicycles on the sidewalk in Arlington Center. One of the major causes of sidewalk riding in the Center is the confusion resulting from the gap in the Minuteman Bikeway between Swan Place and Route 60. The Town received a commitment of funding from Mass. DOT for \$290,000 to pursue longer term improvements to improve safety and mobility at the intersection of Mass. Avenue and Route 60 for bike riders, drivers and pedestrians.

The funds come from a program called "Clean Air and Mobility Program", and are targeted to actions that will reduce air pollution by encouraging walking and biking and decreasing congestion. These funds can be used for construction programmed in the year 2013. The Working Group overseeing the project chose the following option that they felt best meets the goals:

1. Install bike lanes (5') on both sides of Mass. Ave.
2. Modify median on Mass. Ave. east of intersection (at Cambridge Savings Bank).
3. Remove parking in front of Cambridge Savings Bank to provide width for bike lanes.
4. Add parking on Mystic Street.
5. Add bike signal and accessible ramps at Swan Place.
6. Extend bikeway along the sidewalk edge of Uncle Sam Park for biking in both directions.
7. Elongate left turn lane on Mystic St. approaching Mass. Avenue to move more drivers through the intersection during each light cycle.
8. Extend curb at Jefferson Cutter House and UU Church corners, to shorten crossing distance and time for pedestrians.
9. Adjust signal timing at 3 signals (Chestnut and Mystic, Mystic and Mass. Ave., Mass. Ave. and Medford St.
10. Upgrade signal equipment at Mass./Rte.60.

Cambridge Savings Bank sent a letter to the Planning Dept. stating that they have no objection to the removal of the parking spaces in front of their property

Mr. Robert Radochia, 45 Columbia Road, asked why we are moving parking spaces from in front of the bank when we can't afford to lose any more parking spaces. He is opposed to removing any parking spaces in that area. Scott Smith, TAC representative, spoke in favor of plan - he feels it will support bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists. Mark Kaepplian, 11 Palmer Street, stated that it is one of the better plans he has seen and feels the goal is to make the intersection more accessible.

Ms. Rowe thanked the group for all their work in presenting the plan.

Mr. Rademacher, Director of Public Works, stated Mass. Highway will require another hearing at the 25% design level.

Ms. LaCourt moved approval of said plan.

SO VOTED (5-0)

7. Vote: Private Way Name Standardization

Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

Adam Kurowski, GIS Coordinator

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

8. WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

Article 28 Vote/Street Name Standardization

The Board recommends favorable action to unify street lists.

Mr. Greeley moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 17 Bylaw Amendment/Newspaper Bins

Mr. Greeley moved approval

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 23 Bylaw Amendment/Second Water Meters

Ms. LaCourt moved no action.

SO VOTED (3-2)

Mrs. Mahon and Mr. Greeley voted in favor.

Article 25 Bylaw Amendment/Leaf Blower Regulation

(postponed from 2/27 meeting)

Mr. Greeley moved no action

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 26 Establish Committee/Building Maintenance

Rather than wait for Town Meeting action, the Board voted to create a committee which will include representatives of the Town Manager, the Dept. of Public Works, School Department, a member of the Finance Committee and a

citizen of the Town. The proponents feel an appropriate planned maintenance spending can delay emergency and capital spending.

Mrs. Mahon moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 67 Vote/Flood Study Interlaken Neighborhood

Mr. Simon Verghese, 5 Parker Road, stated that Winchester will soon complete their Aberjona flood mitigation project. They will then need to send a technical information package to FEMA that shows the impact of their changes. At a minimum, this would include a new 100-year flood calculation that should extend downstream into the part of Arlington bordering Upper Mystic Lake.

Ms. Rowe stated that the Board of Selectmen would send another letter to Winchester asking the Town to complete the requested flood study and to instruct Town staff to obtain and evaluate the results of the study.

Ms. LaCourt moved no action

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 68 Vote/Geographic Information System (GIS) Chapter 40B Study Committee

The Board voted to ask the Department of Planning and Community Development to report to the Board on or before April 9th whether the Town has met its affordable housing requirement using the land area calculation.

Mr. Chapdelaine stated that he feels we do not need to have a committee formed because we have reached our total with the Brigham and Symmes site.

Ms. LaCourt moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 69 Vote/Rescind Eminent Domain Authority-Massachusetts Avenue Sidewalks

Ms. LaCourt moved no action

SO VOTED (5-0)

Article 70 Vote/Add Ballot Question on Mass. Ave.

The Board recommends no action under this article at this late date.

Ms. LaCourt stated that putting a road project on the ballot isn't public policy.

Ms. LaCourt moved no action.

SO VOTED (5-0)

Correspondence Received

Meghan Henning Repaving of Hancock Street and Thesda Street Be Rec'd
42 Hancock Street

Ms. Rowe stated that the Director of Public Works, Michael Rademacher, had been in contact with Ms. Henning, and he would be in contact with the neighborhood to review street conditions and hear their concerns.

Mrs. Mahan moved receipt of correspondence.

SO VOTED (5-0)

New Business

Ms. LaCourt stated that the Arlington Education Foundation's Annual Trivia Bee is Sunday, March 25, 2012, at Town Hall and asked if any of her colleagues would like to join her in forming a team. Mr. Greeley stated that he would be willing to be a participant. The event is free, but each team of three people must pay a \$30 entrance fee.

Ms. LaCourt stated that many students from Arlington High School won The 2012 Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing Awards including her daughter Ellie who is a Junior. Entries that won a Gold or Silver Key will be on display at the State Transportation Building through April 20th.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager if he has looked into the National League of Cities

Service Line Warranty Program, an affordable homeowner protection plan, to save on the cost of water and sewer lines repairs. New to the program in 2012, homeowners in various states have joined more than 100 other cities that have given their residents the "peace-of-mind" that the NLC Service Line Warranty Program offers. This program is similar to the NLC Prescription Discount Card Program.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager if he was looking into the Unemployment Payments to certain categories of

public employees under varying circumstances. Mrs. Mahan stated Joanne Goldstein, Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development, is available to identify questionable unemployment cases involving municipal employees.

Mrs. Mahon also asked the Manager if we had anyone in Human Resources that could be helpful to people over 50 that have lost their jobs.

Mrs. Mahon stated that she supports the School Dept. regarding their policy vote on anti-bullying rules. She received today her 4th test that she had to take as a Coach. She feels that they are doing a great job reaching out to everybody.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest

Marie A. Krepelka
Board Administrator